

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Art Unit : 3644
Examiner : Joshua J. Michener
Applicant : Roland Busse
Appln. No. : 10/500,078
Filing Date : November 26, 2004
Confirmation No. : 5861
For : DEVICE FOR FEEDING POULTRY ESPECIALLY
FATTENED POULTRY, PREFERABLY BOILERS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF
(PATENT APPLICATION - 37 CFR §41.37)

1. Transmitted herewith is the APPEAL BRIEF in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on September 25, 2008.

2. **STATUS OF APPLICANTS**

This application is on behalf of:

☐ other than a small entity.

☒ a small entity.

3. **FEE FOR FILING APPEAL BRIEF**

Pursuant to 35 USC §41(a)(6), the fee for filing the Appeal Brief is:

☒ small entity \$270.00

☐ other than a small entity \$540.00

Appeal Brief fee due: \$270.00

4. **EXTENSION OF TERM**

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 35 USC §41(a)(8) apply.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

(a) ☐ Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136:

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<u>Extension (months)</u>	<u>Fee for other than small entity</u>	<u>Fee for small entity</u>
___ one month	\$130.00	\$65.00
___ two months	\$490.00	\$245.00
___ three months	\$1110.00	\$555.00
___ four months	\$1730.00	\$865.00
___ five months	\$2350.00	\$1175.00

FEE: \$

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

___ An extension for ___ months has already been secured, and the fee paid therefor of \$___ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request: \$

or

(b) ___ Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

5. TOTAL FEE DUE

The total fee due is:

Appeal Brief fee: \$270.00

Extension fee (if any) \$0

TOTAL FEE DUE: \$270.00

6. FEE PAYMENT

___ Attached is a check in the sum of \$___.

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X Charge Account No. 16 2463 the sum of \$270.00.

A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

7. FEE DEFICIENCY

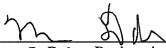
X If any additional extension and/or fee is required, this is a request therefor and to charge Account No. 16 2463.

and/or

X If any additional fee for claims is required, charge Account No. 16 2463.

Respectfully submitted,

November 25, 2008
Date



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APPEAL BRIEF (37 CFR §41.37)

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on September 25, 2008.

The fees required under 35 USC 41(a)(6), and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefor, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief contains these items under the following headings, and in the order set forth below (37 CFR §41.37(c)):

- I. Real Party in Interest
- II. Related Appeals and Interferences
- III. Status of Claims
- IV. Status of Amendments
- V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter
- VI. Grounds of Rejection to Be Reviewed on Appeal
- VII. Argument
- VIII. Conclusion

Appendix of Claims Involved in the Appeal

Evidence Appendix

Related Proceedings Appendix

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The final page of this brief bears the attorney's signature.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in this application is Big Dutchman International GmbH, the assignment to which was recorded on January 15, 2007 at Reel 018765, Frame 0008.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences pending during this application.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 20-85 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 have been canceled. Claims 21, 22, 28, 30, 31, 41, 42, 48-53, 61, 62 and 68-73 have been indicated as being allowed. Claims 27, 29, 32, 33, 38, 39, 47, 58, 59, 67, 78 and 79 were previously dependent claims indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form. As discussed below, an Amendment After Final was filed wherein claims 27, 29, 38, 47, 58, 67 and 78 were rewritten into independent form and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 32 and 33 depend from allowed claim 28, claim 39 depends from claim 38, claim 59 depends from claim 58 and claim 79 depends from claim 78, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance. In an Advisory Action mailed October 3, 2008, the amendment rewriting claims 27, 29, 38, 47, 58, 67 and 78 into independent form was entered. However, the Advisory Action stated that claims 27, 29, 32, 33, 38, 39, 47, 58, 59, 67, 78 and 79 remained objected to as depending from rejected claims. Applicant submits that the indication of objection to claims 27, 29, 32, 33, 38, 39, 47, 58, 59, 67, 78 and 79 was in error and that these claims are also allowed. Claims 20, 23-26, 34-37, 40, 43-46, 54-57, 60, 63-66, 74-77 and 80-85 have been rejected and are the subject of this appeal.

IV. Status of Amendments

As outlined above, Applicant filed an amendment after final on September 23, 2008 wherein claims 27, 29, 38, 47, 58, 67 and 78 were rewritten into independent form, claims 23,

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43, 63 and 80-85 were amended to present these claims in better form for appeal and several minor amendments were made to correct grammatical inconsistencies in the claims. The Examiner indicated in an Advisory Action mailed October 3, 2008 that these amendments were entered. Accordingly, claims 27, 29, 38, 47, 58, 67 and 78 and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 32 and 33 depend from allowed claim 28, claim 39 depends from claim 38, claim 59 depends from claim 58 and claim 79 depends from claim 78, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

As described in the specification portion of the application (pages 1-21), and illustrated in the related figures (FIGS. 1-10), the invention recited in the finally rejected claims relates to a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop.

The invention relates to a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in coops with at least one feed delivery pipe held above the floor of the coop in a raisable and lowerable manner. The feed delivery pipe has a series of branch openings, of which each is allocated to a bowl device suspended on the delivery pipe. As the bowl device is raised and lowered, it is possible to allocate different discharge cones and discharge heights of the feed passing via the downpipe into the bowl device. In order, for example, to provide chicks with improved eating conditions, a higher discharge height and therefore a high feed level in the bowl is necessary. In accordance with the growth of the chicks, the feed level in the bowl can be set lower because growing animals can easily reach areas located lower in the feed bowls than chicks are capable of for the purpose of acquiring feed.

According to claim 20, an aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The

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bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam 27 (page 12, line 30).

According to claim 23, an aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and

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lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) includes a threaded spindle 15 (page 12, line 2). Ends of the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) are connected to a screw ring (page 12, line 7), which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) having the threaded spindle 15 (page 12, line 2).

According to claim 34, an aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 10) includes a feed

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plate, which in an area of its plate edge includes connecting elements for connecting to the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11).

According to claim 40, a further aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam 27 (page 13, line 4).

According to claim 43, another aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11,

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line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) includes a threaded spindle 15 (page 12, line 6). Ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 16) are connected to a screw ring 17 (page 12, line 11), which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) having the threaded spindle 15 (page 12, line 6).

According to claim 54, yet another aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on

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which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) includes a feed plate and the feed plate includes a plate edge having connecting elements for connecting the feed plate to the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 16).

According to claim 60, a further aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational

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stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam 27 (page 13, line 4).

According to claim 63, another aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) includes a threaded spindle 15 (page 12, line 6). Ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) having the threaded spindle 15 (page 12, line 6).

According to claim 74, yet another aspect of the present invention is to provide a device 2 (page 11, line 6) for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed

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delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) held above a floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) having at least one aperture. The device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) includes a feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) located beneath a downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10). The bowl device 2 (page 11, line 6) further includes a cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) formed from grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) in spoke fashion. The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) comprises an inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12) configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) encompassing the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12), on which the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) is suspended by the grid bars 5 (page 11, line 11) of the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11) in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe 1 (page 11, line 3) is lowered, the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) comes to rest on the floor 34 (page 11, line 16) of the coop. The outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). At least one lifting stop 14 (page 12, line 1) is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl 4 (page 11, line 11). The downpipe 3 (page 11, line 10) includes at least one rotational stop 18-21 (page 12, lines 13-15) delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder 8 (page 11, line 13) in relation to the inner cylinder 7 (page 11, line 12). The feed bowl 4 (page 11, line 11) includes a feed plate and the feed plate includes a plate edge having connecting elements for connecting the feed plate to the bowl cupola 6 (page 11, line 11).

VI. Grounds of Rejection to Be Reviewed on Appeal

Claims 20, 23-26, 34, 35, 40, 43-46, 54, 55, 60, 63-66, 74, 75 and 80-85 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,476,811 to Swartzendruber in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,101,766 to Runion.

Claims 36, 37, 56, 57, 76, and 77 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,476,811 to Swartzendruber in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,101,766 to Runion and U.S. Patent No. 5,097,797 to Van Zee et al.

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VII. Argument

- A. **Rejection of Claims 20, 23-26, 34, 35, 40, 43-46, 54, 55, 60, 63-66, 74, 75 and 80-85 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as Being Unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,476,811 to Swartzendruber in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,101,766 to Runion.**

As further discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. The test for obviousness has recently been addressed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *KSR Int'l. Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, 82 U.S.P.Q.2d 1385 (2007). In its decision, the Supreme Court stated that the teaching-suggestion-motivation (TSM) standard developed by the Federal Circuit was no longer the sole test for determining obviousness. Nevertheless, the Court indicated that the TSM test provides helpful insights as to the obviousness of the invention.

Furthermore, according to M.P.E.P. §2142:

The key to supporting any rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is the clear articulation of the reason(s) why the claimed invention would have been obvious. The Supreme Court in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. ___, ___, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (2007) noted that the analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 should be made explicit. The Federal Circuit has stated that "rejections on obviousness cannot be sustained with mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness." *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988, 78 USPQ2d 1329, 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2006). See also *KSR*, 550 U.S. at ___, 82 USPQ2d at 1396 (quoting Federal Circuit statement with approval).

Applicant submits that the Examiner has not clearly articulated the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious.

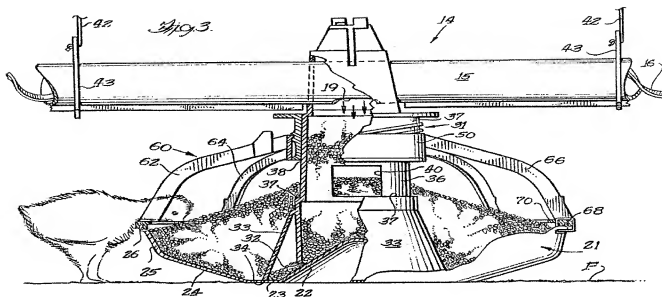
Moreover, while the U.S. Supreme Court held that the TSM standard was not the sole standard for finding obviousness, there is at least one element to the finding of a *prima facie* case of obviousness that is common to both the TSM standard and the standards that may otherwise fall within the purview of the *KSR* decision. Specifically, each and every element of the claimed invention must still be considered. As will be set forth below, there are elements of the claimed invention that are missing in their entirety from the cited prior art.

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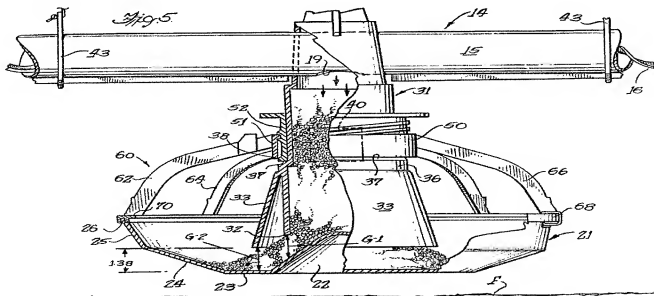
Claims 20, 40 and 60

Claim 20 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, with the pipe having at least one aperture. The device comprises a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, with the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe and a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. At least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder and wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam.

Applicant submits that claim 20 is not obvious over the cited art of record. The Swartzendruber '811 patent includes a device 10 for feeding of free-range poultry. The device 10 has two feeding configurations: a first configuration as shown in FIG. 3 for feeding young chicks and a second configuration as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 for feeding older poultry.



As shown above in FIG. 3 of the Swartzendruber '811 patent, an opening 40 in a drop tube main cylinder portion 36 of a drop tube means 31 is open to allow feed to exit the drop tube means 31 through the opening 40 and onto a pan 21. As illustrated in FIG. 3, the opening 40 is uncovered because a collar assembly 50 connected the pan 21 via a grillwork 60 is raised to uncover the opening 40 as the device 10 is moved to about a floor F. As the device is lifted from FIG. 3 to FIGS. 4 and 5, the pan 21 remains on the floor F. Furthermore, the grillwork 60 and the collar assembly 50 remain stationary relative to the pan 21, but not the rest of the device (at least until the pan 21 is lifted off of the floor F). FIG. 5 of the Swartzendruber '811 patent is shown below.



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As the device is lifted to the configuration in FIG. 5, the opening 40 moves upward relative to the pan 21, the grillwork 60 and the collar assembly 50, such that the collar assembly 50 now covers the opening 40 to prevent feed from exiting the opening 40. However, the feed is allowed to exit a bottom of the distal end 32 of the drop tube means 31 between the distal end 32 and a central cone 22 of the pan 21. It is noted that when the device is lifted off the floor F (as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5) to the point where the collar assembly 50, the grillwork 60 and the pan 21 stop moving relative to the rest of the device (as the collar assembly 50 abuts the shoulder 37 of the drop tube means 31), the distance G1 between the distal end 32 and the central cone 22 of the pan 21 and the distance G2 between the skirt 33 and the pan 21 can be adjusted by relative rotation between a first screw cam element 51 of the collar assembly 50 and a second screw cam element 52. Moreover, both the first screw cam element 51 of the collar assembly 50 and the second screw cam element 52 surround the drop tube means 31.

Claim 20 includes a "device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture," a "bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder" and "includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder." Since claim 20 includes a downpipe including an inner cylinder configured to depart from an aperture of a feed delivery pipe capable of being raised and lowered, the inner cylinder of the Swartzendruber '811 patent could only be the drop tube means 31 (the only element of the Swartzendruber '811 patent that departs from an aperture of a feed delivery pipe). However, according to the final rejection, the Swartzendruber '811 patent does not include all of the claimed features of claim 20 as it "fails to teach [that] the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder" or that "the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic cam." Page 4 of the Office Action mailed June 26, 2008. Therefore, in order to obviate claim 20, the

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Swartzendruber '811 patent must be modified to add "at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder" as claimed in claim 20.

In the final rejection, the Examiner states that the Runion '766 patent discloses "at least one rotation stop (44, 54, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78) delimiting a rotation path of an outer cylinder (50, 52) in relation to an inner cylinder (figure 20) (sic) wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring elastic engagement cam (74, 76)." Id. In the Runion '766 patent, elements 44, 54, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78 as used to adjust a distance between a bottom of a skirt or flare 24 and the pan 18. Unlike the Swartzendruber '811 patent which allows an inner tube to slide freely along an outer tube to feed young chicks or older poultry as discussed above, the Runion '766 patent does not disclose feeding young chicks and only discloses changing a distance between an end of a skirt and a pan (similar to changing the distances G1 and G2 in the Swartzendruber '811 patent).

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 20 by stating that "[i]t would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify SWARTZENDRUBER to comprise of a rotational stop in order to prevent relative rotation between the inner cylinder and outer cylinder as taught by Runion (col 5, lines 7-13)." Id. However, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the references as set forth in the final Office Action, and even if it was obvious to combine the references, such a combination would not include all of the features of claim 20.

First, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action. According to the Office Action, it is obvious to modify the Swartzendruber '811 patent to include a rotational stop in order to prevent relative rotation between the inner cylinder and outer cylinder. However, the Swartzendruber '811 patent requires relative movement between the outside of the drop tube main cylinder 36 and the element surrounding the drop tube main cylinder 36 (i.e., the collar assembly). According to the Swartzendruber '811 patent, the drop tube 31 can be raised via the conveyor tube 15 to allow the feeder to automatically be reconfigured for use by the more mature poultry. See lines 37-39 of column 3. Furthermore, according to the Swartzendruber '811 patent, it is an object of the invention to provide a feeder which will change automatically

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from one configuration and operating mode to the other as the feeder is raised from and lowered to a poultry house floor. See lines 43-47 of column 1. The device of the Swartzendruber '811 patent is only allowed to move automatically between these two configurations because the inner cylinder (drop tube means 21) is allowed to move relative to the outer cylinder (collar assembly). However, if the outer cylinder and inner cylinder of the Swartzendruber '811 patent were locked in position, they would not be able to move relative to each other, thereby not allowing the feeder to move from one configuration and operating mode to the other as the feeder is raised and lowered to a poultry house floor. Accordingly, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the references as set forth in the Office Action and, in fact, the Swartzendruber '811 patent teaches away from any such combination. Accordingly, claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

Second, the cited art of record does not include a downpipe having at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of an outer cylinder in relation to an inner cylinder and an outer cylinder that features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam, along with the remaining features of claim 20. According to the Office Action, the Swartzendruber '811 patent does not include these features. However, the Office Action has combined the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent by stating that the Runion '766 patent includes both at least one rotational stop and at least one spring-elastic engagement cam. It appears that the Office Action is stating that the same single element in the Runion '766 patent comprises both the at least one rotational stop and the at least one spring-elastic engagement cam. However, Applicant submits that the Runion '766 patent does not include both of these features as the Runion '766 patent does not disclose two separate elements and Applicant submits that one element in a reference cannot be used to reject two separate elements as claimed.

Third, Applicant submits that if the Swartzendruber '811 patent was combined with the Runion '766 patent, any resulting combination would not include a downpipe with a rotational stop as claimed in claim 20. Accordingly, claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 40 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and

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lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture. The device comprises a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, with the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe. The feed bowl is located beneath the downpipe. The cupola is formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder. The feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. The bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder. The outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam.

Applicant submits that claim 40 is not obvious over the cited art of record. First, as discussed above in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action and that the Swartzendruber '811 patent actually teaches away from any such combination. Second, Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not include an outer cylinder that features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam. As discussed above in regard to claim 20, it appears that the Office Action has stated that the cited references include at least one rotational stop and at least one spring-elastic engagement cam, with one element of the cited references comprising these two separate elements as claimed. As outlined above, Applicant submits that such a rejection is improper. Third, Applicant submits that a combination as set forth in the final Office Action would not include any downpipe with a rotational stop as claimed in claim 40. Accordingly, claim 40 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 60 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered with the pipe having at least one branch aperture and a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, with the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe. The feed

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bowl is located beneath the downpipe. The cupola is formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder. The feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. The bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder. The outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam.

Applicant submits that claim 60 is not obvious over the cited art of record. First, as discussed above in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action and that the Swartzendruber '811 patent actually teaches away from any such combination. Second, Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not include an outer cylinder that features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle. As discussed above in regard to claim 20, it appears that the Office Action has stated that the cited references include at least one rotational stop and at least one spring-elastic engagement cam, with one element of the cited references comprising these two separate elements as claimed. As outlined above, Applicant submits that such a rejection is improper. Third, Applicant submits that a combination as set forth in the final Office Action would not include any downpipe with a rotational stop as claimed in claim 60. Accordingly, claim 60 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 23, 43 and 63

Claim 23 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture. The device comprises a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe with the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe. The bowl device further includes a cupola formed from grid bars in

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spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. At least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder. The outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle. Free ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle.

Applicant submits that claim 23 is not obvious over the cited art of record. First, as discussed above in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action and that the Swartzendruber '811 patent actually teaches away from any such combination. Second, Applicant submits that any combination of the Swartzendruber '811 patent and the Runion '766 patent would not include an outer cylinder, an inner cylinder, and a screw ring. Applicant submits that a combination of the references as set forth in the Office Action would, at most, only include two of these elements as the combination appears to result in removal of at least one of these elements from the Swartzendruber '811 patent to make the combination in the final Office Action. The combination would not include all three of these elements. Accordingly, claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 43 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture. The device comprises a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, with the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe. The feed bowl is located beneath the downpipe. The cupola is formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder.

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The feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. The bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder. The outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle. Free ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle.

Applicant submits that claim 43 is not obvious over the cited art of record. First, as discussed above in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action and that the Swartzendruber '811 patent actually teaches away from any such combination. Second, Applicant submits that any combination of the Swartzendruber '811 patent and the Runion '766 patent would not include an outer cylinder, an inner cylinder, and a screw ring. Applicant submits that a combination of the references as set forth in the Office Action would, at most, only include two of these elements as the combination appears to result in removal of at least one of these elements from the Swartzendruber '811 patent to make the combination in the final Office Action. The combination would not include all three of these elements. Accordingly, claim 43 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 63 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered with the pipe having at least one branch aperture and a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, with the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe. The feed bowl is located beneath the downpipe. The cupola is formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder. The feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest

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on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. The bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder. The outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle. Free ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle.

Applicant submits that claim 63 is not obvious over the cited art of record. First, as discussed above in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action and that the Swartzendruber '811 patent actually teaches away from any such combination. Second, Applicant submits that any combination of the Swartzendruber '811 patent and the Runion '766 patent would not include an outer cylinder, an inner cylinder, and a screw ring. Applicant submits that a combination of the references as set forth in the Office Action would, at most, only include two of these elements as the combination appears to result in removal of at least one of these elements from the Swartzendruber '811 patent to make the combination in the final Office Action. The combination would not include all three of these elements. Accordingly, claim 63 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 24, 25, 44, 45, 64 and 65

Claims 24 and 25 depend from claim 23, since claim 23 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 24 and 25 define patentable subject matter. Furthermore, in regard to claim 24, Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not include an outer cylinder that features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle. First, as discussed above in regard to claim 20, it appears that the Office Action has stated that the cited references include at least one rotational stop and at least one spring-elastic engagement cam, with one element of the cited references comprising these two separate elements as claimed. As outlined above, Applicant submits that such a rejection is improper. Second, Applicant submits that the cited art does not include any

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spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by a threaded spindle as claimed in claim 24. Moreover, claim 25 depends from claim 24. Accordingly, claims 24 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 44 and 45 depend from claim 43, since claim 43 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 44 and 45 define patentable subject matter. Furthermore, in regard to claim 44, Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not include an outer cylinder that features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle. First, as discussed above in regard to claim 20, it appears that the Office Action has stated that the cited references include at least one rotational stop and at least one spring-elastic engagement cam, with one element of the cited references comprising these two separate elements as claimed. As outlined above, Applicant submits that such a rejection is improper. Second, Applicant submits that the cited art does not include any spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by a threaded spindle as claimed in claim 24. Moreover, claim 45 depends from claim 44. Accordingly, claims 44 and 45 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 64 and 65 depend from claim 63, since claim 63 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 64 and 65 define patentable subject matter. Furthermore, in regard to claim 64, Applicant submits that the prior art of record does not include an outer cylinder that features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle. First, as discussed above in regard to claim 20, it appears that the Office Action has stated that the cited references include at least one rotational stop and at least one spring-elastic engagement cam, with one element of the cited references comprising these two separate elements as claimed. As outlined above, Applicant submits that such a rejection is improper. Second, Applicant submits that the cited art does not include any spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by a threaded spindle as claimed in claim 24. Moreover, claim 65 depends from claim 64. Accordingly, claims 64 and 65 are in condition for allowance.

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Claims 26, 46 and 66

Claim 26 depend from claims 23 and 24, since claims 23 and 24 define unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claim 26 defines patentable subject matter. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the cited art of record does not include any cut-outs as claimed in claim 26. Accordingly, claim 26 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 46 depend from claims 43 and 44, since claims 43 and 44 define unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claim 46 defines patentable subject matter. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the cited art of record does not include any cut-outs as claimed in claim 46. Accordingly, claim 46 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 66 depend from claims 63 and 64, since claims 63 and 64 define unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claim 66 defines patentable subject matter. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the cited art of record does not include any cut-outs as claimed in claim 66. Accordingly, claim 66 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 34-37, 54-57 and 74-77

Claim 34 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture. The device comprises a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe with the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe. The bowl device further includes a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. At least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder. The feed bowl includes a feed plate, which in an area of its plate edge includes connecting elements for connecting to the bowl cupola.

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Applicant submits that claim 34 is not obvious over the cited art of record. As discussed above in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action and that the Swartzendruber '811 patent actually teaches away from any such combination. Accordingly, claim 34 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 35-37 depend from claim 34, since claim 34 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 35-37 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 35-37 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 54 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture. The device comprises a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, with the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe. The feed bowl is located beneath the downpipe. The cupola is formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder. The feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. The bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder. The feed bowl includes a feed plate. The feed plate includes a plate edge having connecting elements for connecting the feed plate to the bowl cupola.

Applicant submits that claim 54 is not obvious over the cited art of record. As discussed above in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action and that the Swartzendruber '811 patent actually teaches away from any such combination. Accordingly, claim 54 is in condition for allowance.

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Claims 55-57 depend from claim 54, since claim 54 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 55-57 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 55-57 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 74 defines a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered with the pipe having at least one branch aperture and a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, with the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe. The feed bowl is located beneath the downpipe. The cupola is formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion. The downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder. The feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop. The outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder. The bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl. The downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder. The feed bowl includes a feed plate. The feed plate includes a plate edge having connecting elements for connecting the feed plate to the bowl cupola.

Applicant submits that claim 74 is not obvious over the cited art of record. As discussed above in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the Swartzendruber '811 patent with the Runion '766 patent as set forth in the Office Action and that the Swartzendruber '811 patent actually teaches away from any such combination. Accordingly, claim 74 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 75-77 depend from claim 74, since claim 74 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 75-77 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 75-77 are in condition for allowance.

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Claims 80, 82 and 84

Claims 80, 82 and 84 depend from claims 20, 40 and 60, respectively, and further state that ends of the grid bars of the cupola are connected to a screw ring that surrounds the outer cylinder. Applicant submits that claims 80, 82 and 84 are in condition for allowance. First, claims 80, 82 and 84 depend from claims 20, 40 and 60, respectively, and since claims 20, 40 and 60 define patent subject matter as discussed above, claims 80, 82 and 84 define patent subject matter. Second, Applicant submits that the combination of the references as set forth in the Office Action would not include any screw ring. Accordingly, claims 80, 82 and 84 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 81, 83 and 85

Claims 81, 83 and 85 depend from claims 34, 54 and 74, respectively, and further state that ends of the grid bars of the cupola are connected to a screw ring that surrounds the outer cylinder. Applicant submits that claims 81, 83 and 85 are in condition for allowance. First, claims 81, 83 and 85 depend from claims 34, 54 and 74, respectively, and since claims 34, 54 and 74 define patent subject matter as discussed above, claims 81, 83 and 85 define patentable subject matter. Second, Applicant submits that the combination of the references as set forth in the Office Action would not include any screw ring. Accordingly, claims 81, 83 and 85 are in condition for allowance.

B. Rejection of Claims 36, 37, 56, 57, 76, and 77 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as Being Unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,476,811 to Swartzendruber in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,101,766 to Runion and U.S. Patent No. 5,097,797 to Van Zee et al.

As further discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. The test for obviousness has recently been addressed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *KSR Int'l. Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, 82 U.S.P.Q.2d 1385 (2007). In its decision, the Supreme Court stated that the teaching-suggestion-motivation (TSM) standard developed by the Federal Circuit was no longer the sole test for determining obviousness.

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Nevertheless, the Court indicated that the TSM test provides helpful insights as to the obviousness of the invention.

Furthermore, according to M.P.E.P. §2142:

The key to supporting any rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is the clear articulation of the reason(s) why the claimed invention would have been obvious. The Supreme Court in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. ___, ___, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (2007) noted that the analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 should be made explicit. The Federal Circuit has stated that "rejections on obviousness cannot be sustained with mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness." *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988, 78 USPQ2d 1329, 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2006). See also *KSR*, 550 U.S. at ___, 82 USPQ2d at 1396 (quoting Federal Circuit statement with approval).

Applicant submits that the Examiner has not clearly articulated the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious.

Moreover, while the U.S. Supreme Court held that the TSM standard was not the sole standard for finding obviousness, there is at least one element to the finding of a *prima facie* case of obviousness that is common to both the TSM standard and the standards that may otherwise fall within the purview of the *KSR* decision. Specifically, each and every element of the claimed invention must still be considered. As will be set forth below, there are elements of the claimed invention that are missing in their entirety from the cited prior art.

Claims 36 and 37

Claims 36 and 37 depend from claim 34, and since claim 34 defines patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 36 and 37 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 36 and 37 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 56 and 57

Claims 56 and 57 depend from claim 54, and since claim 54 defines patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 56 and 57 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 56 and 57 are in condition for allowance.

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Claims 76 and 77


Claims 76 and 77 depend from claim 74, and since claim 74 defines patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 76 and 77 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 76 and 77 are in condition for allowance.

VIII. Conclusion

Each claim recites features that are not disclosed in any of the cited references and it would not have been obvious to modify the cited references to include the recited features of the appealed claims. The reference upon which the Examiner relies in the Examiner's rejection of the claims does not disclose or make obvious a device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop or a feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop as claimed. Applicant's invention resolves problems and inconveniences experienced in the prior art, and therefore represents a significant advancement in the art. Applicant earnestly requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 20, 23-26, 34-37, 40, 43-46, 54-57, 60, 63-66, 74-77 and 80-85 be reversed, and that the application be passed to allowance forthwith.

Respectfully submitted,

November 25, 2008
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Appendix of Claims (35 USC §41.37(c))

20. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and

wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam.

21. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on

the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and

wherein each rotational stop features at least one elevation, arranged in a predetermined area of the outer surface of the inner cylinder and at least one driver dog located on the inner surface of the outer cylinder, into the rotational path of which, at the rotation of the outer cylinder about the inner cylinder, the elevation projects.

22. A device according to claim 21, wherein:

a predetermined area of the outer surface of the inner cylinder in its upper head part is offset in relation to a remaining portion of the inner cylinder as a result of reduced cylinder diameter.

23. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and

wherein the outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle, and that ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle.

24. A device according to claim 23, wherein:
the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle.
25. A device according to claim 24, wherein:
each engagement cam is spring-elastic in a radial direction.
26. A device according to claim 24, wherein:
the screw ring includes cut-outs on its inner circumference surface, with which the engagement cams are capable of engaging with positive fit.
27. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:
a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle, and that ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle;

wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle;

wherein the screw ring includes cut-outs on its inner circumference surface, with which the engagement cams are capable of engaging with positive fit; and

wherein the engagement cams and the cut-outs include run-in flanks arranged obliquely to the direction of rotation.

28. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the outer cylinder is comprised of adjacent outer cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby outer face peripheral areas of the outer cylinder sections turned towards

each other are connected to one another by outer bridging elements which bridge an outer gap area, which corresponds to an outer interval distance between the outer cylinder sections; and

wherein the inner cylinder is comprised of adjacent inner cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby inner face peripheral areas of the inner cylinder sections turned towards each other are connected to one another by inner bridging elements which bridge an inner gap area, which corresponds to an inner interval distance between the inner cylinder sections.

29. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam; and

wherein an end-side cylinder section of the inner cylinder covers a gap area between the cylinder sections of the outer cylinder, when the outer cylinder is moved by the raising of the feed delivery pipe into a position which is lowered in relation to the inner cylinder, in which lifting stops of the inner cylinder and the outer cylinder are in mutually opposed positions.

30. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and

wherein the lifting stop comprises a recess in the cylinder inner surface of the outer cylinder and at least one abutment shoulder for the recess projecting radially from the inner cylinder.

31. A device according to claim 30, wherein:

each abutment shoulder for the recess is a part of a radial projection in a form of a collar flange.

32. A device according to claim 28, wherein:

each bridging element is a flat web, of which a web surface plane is aligned radially to the axis of the individual inner cylinder or outer cylinder in each case.

33. A device according to claim 32, wherein:

the bridging elements of the outer cylinder comprise paddles or vanes projecting over a periphery of the outer cylinder into the feed bowl.

34. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and

wherein the feed bowl includes a feed plate, which in an area of its plate edge includes connecting elements for connecting to the bowl cupola.

35. A device according to claim 34, wherein:

the connecting elements include a flap joint and at least one locking or retaining element.

36. A device according to claim 34, wherein:

a ring surface of the feed plate runs around a plate center, which is configured to be located beneath the downpipe, and is subdivided into feeding sections.

37. A device according to claim 36, wherein:
each feeding section comprises at least one pocket delimited by depression or elevation.
38. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:
a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device including a feed bowl located beneath a downpipe, the bowl device further including a cupola formed from grid bars in spoke fashion, wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder, on which the bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop, wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder, and at least one lifting stop is provided for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;
wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;
wherein the feed bowl includes a feed plate, which in an area of its plate edge includes connecting elements for connecting to the bowl cupola;
wherein a ring surface of the feed plate runs around a plate center, which is configured to be located beneath the downpipe, and is subdivided into feeding sections;
wherein the outer cylinder is comprised of adjacent outer cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby outer face peripheral areas of the outer cylinder sections turned towards each other are connected to one another by outer bridging elements which bridge an outer gap area, which corresponds to an outer interval distance between the outer cylinder sections; and
wherein the number of feeding sections is equal to a multiple of the number of the bridging elements of the outer cylinder.

39. A device according to claim 38, wherein:
the bridging elements comprise paddles or vanes.
40. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:
a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;
the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and
the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;
wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;
wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;
wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;
wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;
wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and
wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam.
41. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:
a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;
the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;
wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;
wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;
wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;
wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl; wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;
wherein each rotational stop includes at least one elevation and at least one driver dog;
wherein the at least one elevation is arranged in a predetermined area of the outer surface of the inner cylinder;
wherein the at least one driver dog is located on an inner surface of the outer cylinder;
and
wherein the at least one driver dog includes a rotational path of which, at the rotation of the outer cylinder about the inner cylinder, the elevation projects.

42. A device according to claim 41, wherein:

a predetermined area of the outer surface of the inner cylinder at an upper head part includes a reduced cylinder diameter compared to a remaining portion of the inner cylinder;
and

the predetermined area is offset in relation to a remaining portion of the inner cylinder as a result of reduced cylinder diameter.

43. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

the outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle; and

ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle.

44. A device according to claim 43, wherein:

the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle.

45. A device according to claim 44, wherein:

each engagement cam is spring-elastic in a radial direction.

46. A device according to claim 44, wherein:
the screw ring includes cut-outs on an inner circumference surface thereof; and
the cut-outs are capable of engaging the engagement cams with a positive fit.
47. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:
a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;
the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and
the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;
wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;
wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;
wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;
wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;
wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;
wherein the outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle;
wherein ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle;
wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle;
wherein the screw ring includes cut-outs on an inner circumference surface thereof;

wherein the cut-outs are capable of engaging the engagement cams with a positive fit;
and

wherein the engagement cams and the cut-outs include run-in flanks arranged obliquely to a direction of rotation.

48. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the outer cylinder is comprised of adjacent outer cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby outer face peripheral areas of the outer cylinder sections turned towards each other are connected to one another by outer bridging elements which bridge an outer gap area, which corresponds to an outer interval distance between the outer cylinder sections; and

wherein the inner cylinder is comprised of adjacent inner cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby inner face peripheral areas of the inner cylinder sections turned towards

each other are connected to one another by inner bridging elements which bridge an inner gap area, which corresponds to an inner interval distance between the inner cylinder sections.

49. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

- a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

- the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

- the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

- wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

- wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

- wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

- wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

- wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

- wherein an end-side cylinder section of the inner cylinder covers a gap area between the outer cylinder sections of the outer cylinder when the outer cylinder is moved by the raising of the feed delivery pipe into a position which is lowered in relation to the inner cylinder;

- wherein the inner cylinder and the outer cylinder each include one of the at least one lifting stop; and

- wherein the lifting stops of the inner cylinder and the outer cylinder are in mutually opposed positions.

50. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:

a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and

wherein the at least one lifting stop comprises a recess in a cylinder inner surface of the outer cylinder and at least one abutment shoulder for the recess projecting radially from the inner cylinder.

51. A device according to claim 50, wherein:

each abutment shoulder for the recess is a part of a radial projection.

52. A device according to claim 48, wherein:

each bridging element is a flat web, of which a web surface plane is aligned radially to an axis of the individual inner cylinder or outer cylinder in each case.

53. A device according to claim 52, wherein:
the bridging elements of the outer cylinder comprise paddles or vanes projecting over a periphery of the outer cylinder.
54. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:
a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;
the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and
the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;
wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;
wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;
wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;
wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;
wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;
wherein the feed bowl includes a feed plate; and
wherein the feed plate includes a plate edge having connecting elements for connecting the feed plate to the bowl cupola.
55. A device according to claim 54, wherein:
the connecting elements include a flap joint and at least one locking or retaining element.

56. A device according to claim 54, wherein:
- the feed plate includes a ring surface configured to be located beneath the downpipe and a plate center;
 - the ring surface surrounds the plate center; and
 - the ring surface is subdivided into feeding sections.
57. A device according to claim 56, wherein:
- each feeding section comprises at least one pocket delimited by depression or elevation.
58. A device for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop with at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one aperture, comprising:
- a bowl device configured to be suspended on the feed delivery pipe, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;
 - the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and
 - the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;
- wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder configured to depart from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;
- wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;
 - wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;
 - wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;
 - wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;
 - wherein the feed bowl includes a feed plate;

wherein the feed plate includes a plate edge having connecting elements for connecting the feed plate to the bowl cupola;

wherein the feed plate includes a ring surface configured to be located beneath the downpipe and a plate center;

wherein the ring surface surrounds the plate center;

wherein the ring surface is subdivided into feeding sections;

wherein the outer cylinder is comprised of adjacent outer cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby outer face peripheral areas of the outer cylinder sections turned towards each other are connected to one another by outer bridging elements which bridge an outer gap area, which corresponds to an outer interval distance between the outer cylinder sections; and

wherein the number of feeding sections is equal to a multiple of the number of the bridging elements of the outer cylinder.

59. A device according to claim 58, wherein:

the bridging elements comprise paddles or vanes.

60. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and

wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam.

61. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein each rotational stop includes at least one elevation and at least one driver dog;

wherein the at least one elevation is arranged in a predetermined area of the outer surface of the inner cylinder;

wherein the at least one driver dog is located on an inner surface of the outer cylinder;
and

wherein the at least one driver dog includes a rotational path of which, at the rotation of the outer cylinder about the inner cylinder, the elevation projects.

62. A feeding system according to claim 61, wherein:

a predetermined area of the outer surface of the inner cylinder at an upper head part

includes a reduced cylinder diameter compared to a remaining portion of the inner cylinder;
and

the predetermined area is offset in relation to a remaining portion of the inner cylinder as a result of reduced cylinder diameter.

63. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe; the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle; and

wherein ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle.

64. A feeding system according to claim 63, wherein:

the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle.

65. A feeding system according to claim 64, wherein:

each engagement cam is spring-elastic in a radial direction.

66. A feeding system according to claim 64, wherein:

the screw ring includes cut-outs on an inner circumference surface thereof; and
the cut-outs are capable of engaging the engagement cams with a positive fit.

67. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way

that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the outer surface of an upper cylinder section of the outer cylinder includes a threaded spindle;

wherein ends of the grid bars of the bowl cupola are connected to a screw ring, which is screwed onto an area of the outer cylinder having the threaded spindle;

wherein the outer cylinder features at least one spring-elastic engagement cam in an area defined by the threaded spindle;

wherein the screw ring includes cut-outs on an inner circumference surface thereof; wherein the cut-outs are capable of engaging the engagement cams with a positive fit; and

wherein the engagement cams and the cut-outs include run-in flanks arranged obliquely to a direction of rotation.

68. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way

that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the outer cylinder is comprised of adjacent outer cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby outer face peripheral areas of the outer cylinder sections turned towards each other are connected to one another by outer bridging elements which bridge an outer gap area, which corresponds to an outer interval distance between the outer cylinder sections; and

wherein the inner cylinder is comprised of adjacent inner cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby inner face peripheral areas of the inner cylinder sections turned towards each other are connected to one another by inner bridging elements which bridge an inner gap area, which corresponds to an inner interval distance between the inner cylinder sections.

69. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein an end-side cylinder section of the inner cylinder covers a gap area between the outer cylinder sections of the outer cylinder when the outer cylinder is moved by the raising of the feed delivery pipe into a position which is lowered in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the inner cylinder and the outer cylinder each include one of the at least one lifting stop; and

wherein the lifting stops of the inner cylinder and the outer cylinder are in mutually opposed positions.

70. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion;

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; and

wherein the at least one lifting stop comprises a recess in a cylinder inner surface of the outer cylinder and at least one abutment shoulder for the recess projecting radially from the inner cylinder.

71. A feeding system according to claim 70, wherein:

each abutment shoulder for the recess is a part of a radial projection.

72. A feeding system according to claim 68, wherein:

each bridging element is a flat web, of which a web surface plane is aligned radially to an axis of the individual inner cylinder or outer cylinder in each case.

73. A feeding system according to claim 72, wherein:

the bridging elements of the outer cylinder comprise paddles or vanes projecting over a periphery of the outer cylinder.

74. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe;

the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe;

the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion; and

wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop;

wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder;

wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl;

wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder;

wherein the feed bowl includes a feed plate; and

wherein the feed plate includes a plate edge having connecting elements for connecting the feed plate to the bowl cupola.

75. A feeding system according to claim 74, wherein:

the connecting elements include a flap joint and at least one locking or retaining element.

76. A feeding system according to claim 74, wherein:

the feed plate includes a ring surface configured to be located beneath the downpipe and a plate center;

the ring surface surrounds the plate center; and

the ring surface is subdivided into feeding sections.

77. A feeding system according to claim 76, wherein:

each feeding section comprises at least one pocket delimited by depression or elevation.

78. A feeding system for the feeding of free-range poultry kept in a coop comprising:

at least one feed delivery pipe held above a floor of the coop and capable of being raised and lowered, the pipe having at least one branch aperture; and

a bowl device suspended on the feed delivery pipe and in connection with one of the at least one branch aperture, the bowl device comprising a feed bowl, a cupola, and a downpipe; the feed bowl being located beneath the downpipe; and the cupola being formed from grid bars in a spoke fashion; wherein the downpipe comprises an inner cylinder departing from the aperture and an outer cylinder encompassing the inner cylinder; wherein the feed bowl is suspended by the grid bars of the bowl cupola in such a way that, when the feed delivery pipe is lowered, the bowl comes to rest on the floor of the coop; wherein the outer cylinder is guided in a rotatable manner as well as in a raisable and lowerable manner on the inner cylinder; wherein the bowl device includes at least one lifting stop for delimiting a lifting and lowering path of the bowl; wherein the downpipe includes at least one rotational stop delimiting a rotational path of the outer cylinder in relation to the inner cylinder; wherein the feed bowl includes a feed plate; wherein the feed plate includes a plate edge having connecting elements for connecting the feed plate to the bowl cupola; wherein the feed plate includes a ring surface configured to be located beneath the downpipe and a plate center; wherein the ring surface surrounds the plate center; wherein the ring surface is subdivided into feeding sections; wherein the outer cylinder is comprised of adjacent outer cylinder sections co-axial to each other, whereby outer face peripheral areas of the outer cylinder sections turned towards each other are connected to one another by outer bridging elements which bridge an outer gap area, which corresponds to an outer interval distance between the outer cylinder sections; and wherein the number of feeding sections is equal to a multiple of the number of the bridging elements of the outer cylinder.

79. A feeding system according to claim 78, wherein:
the bridging elements comprise paddles or vanes.
80. A device according to claim 20, wherein:
ends of the grid bars of the cupola are connected to a screw ring that surrounds the
outer cylinder.
81. A device according to claim 34, wherein:
ends of the grid bars of the cupola are connected to a screw ring that surrounds the
outer cylinder.
82. A device according to claim 40, wherein:
ends of the grid bars of the cupola are connected to a screw ring that surrounds the
outer cylinder.
83. A device according to claim 54, wherein:
ends of the grid bars of the cupola are connected to a screw ring that surrounds the
outer cylinder.
84. A device according to claim 60, wherein:
ends of the grid bars of the cupola are connected to a screw ring that surrounds the
outer cylinder.
85. A device according to claim 74, wherein:
ends of the grid bars of the cupola are connected to a screw ring that surrounds the
outer cylinder.

Evidence Appendix (35 USC §41.37(c))

There was no evidence submitted during this application under 37 CFR §1.130, 1.131 or 1.132 or any evidence entered by the Examiner and replied upon by Appellant in the appeal.

Related Proceedings Appendix (35 USC §41.37(c))

There are no related appeals or interferences pending during this application.